

## **Minutes of the Human Rights Commission meeting**

January 18, 2023

Present: Dianna Stallone, Alton McCray, Chelsea Sunday Kline, Megan Paik, Booker Bush, Angela D'Souza, Susan McDonald-Bolanos

Guest: Robin McEwan of Northampton Community Gardens Racial Equity Committee

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Alton McCray observed the meeting.

### **Minutes**

#### **Community Gardens Equity**

Robin McEwan shared that the Board of Health had added to their January 19 agenda a presentation of their equity and sustainability statement and plan. She asked that the HRC consider drafting a written statement with the suggested language:

1. Adopt the proposed Equity & Sustainability Statement; and
2. Create a dedicated position on the Garden Committee for a volunteer representative to coordinate development and implementation of specific actions in support of this commitment."

Commissioners again voted unanimously to endorse the equity group's statement and plan but were divided over whether to promote the statement as written or to add additional text in a letter of support from the HRC. However, individual commissioners may restate the HRC's endorsement in upcoming municipal board meetings attended by Community Gardens Equity group members.

#### **Reparations in Northampton**

The resolution proposed in 2021 has not yet secured sponsorship on the Council. Commissioners voted to table this discussion until they have updates from the reparations committee members or until councilors ask them for support and input on amendments to the resolution.

#### **Re-envisioning of the HRC**

The commissioners voted to form a subcommittee of Angela, Alton, and Megan to coordinate/partner with community groups in the planning of an event around the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights in December. Other proposed ideas are reconnecting with the Youth Commission, bringing in a School Committee member or staff of Historic Northampton as guests, and exploring reproductive justice and white privilege as topics for community education.

#### **New Business**

The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on February 15.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.